



PULAALI'I NIKOLAO PULA
GOVERNOR

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LT. GOVERNOR

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT**

PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA 96799

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February 12, 2026

GENERAL MEMORANDUM NO. 017 – 26

To: Secretary of Samoan Affairs, CEOs, Presidents and Executive Directors of Authorities, Directors, Agency and Office Heads

From: Governor of American Samoa

Subject: Appointments to American Samoa's First Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Commission

In accordance with A.S.C.A. §§4.0111(a), 4.0111(b), and Executive Order No. 009 – 25, I hereby appoint the following individuals to serve as members of the HCBS Commission.

<u>Members</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Expiration Date</u>
1. Salaia Tuileta	Hope House	Dec. 1, 2028
2. Ray Tulafono	Health IT Expert	Dec. 1, 2028
3. Alofaeleuma Faualo	Community at Large	Jan. 1, 2028
4. Tafaimamao Tupuola	Pacific Center in Human Security	Dec. 1, 2028
5. Dr. Lois Phillips Pula	Dementia Friendly American Samoa	Jan. 1, 2028
6. Beauty Ale	Community at Large	June 1, 2028
7. Fainuulelei Alailima-Utu	American Samoa Legal Aid	June 1, 2028
8. Losalia Sialega	Community at Large	Dec. 1, 2028
9. Dr. Evelyn Fa'aiuaso	Community at Large	Dec. 1, 2028
10. Norma Smith	Developmental Disability Planning Council	Jan. 1, 2028

Ex-Officio Members

1. Bethany Malae Toelupe	Office of the Governor	Dec. 1, 2028
2. Louise Kuaea	Medicaid State Agency	June 1, 2028
3. Scott Anesi	LBJ Tropical Medical Center	June 1, 2028
4. Paopao Kuresa F. Paopao	Territorial Administration on Aging	Jan. 1, 2028
5. Paulia Pelenato	Department of Human and Social Services	June 1, 2028
6. Josephine Fuga	Department of Health	June 1, 2028
7. Thor Tinitali	Department of Education	June 1, 2028
8. Ruth Matagi	Development Bank of American Samoa	Jan. 1, 2028
9. Magdeline Lina Petaia	Department of Commerce	Jan. 1, 2028
10. Sandra Lei Ho Ching	ASCC Nursing Program	Dec. 1, 2028

The HCBS Commission will be part of the Office of the Governor to advise on the development, implementation, and coordination of the HCBS programs and policies in American Samoa. It is essential to recognize and acknowledge that establishing the HCBS in conjunction with Money Follows the Person (MFP) actually reflects our *Fa'aSamoa* - especially in how we care for our elders and loved ones living with disabilities in our homes and communities. For years, families and caregivers have carried these responsibilities alone. The HCBS Commission will lay the foundation for a Territory-wide system that will, for the first time, enable financial support for the families and caregivers in the home and community.

HCBS appointees shall serve staggered terms not to exceed two (2) years, except for appointees representing consumers, lived experience, and family members whose terms will not exceed three years. Initial appointments shall be made with staggered end dates to ensure continuity of the Commission's work. Members may be reappointed for additional terms at the discretion of the Governor.

These appointments are effective immediately. My Boards & Commissions Coordinator, Andra Samoa will facilitate the inaugural meeting as soon as practicable. A separate General Memorandum will be issued with regards to the appointment of the Commissioner who will lead the HCBS.

Please extend to the HCBS Commission members your full support and cooperation as this is the first step in building a modern, person-centered system of care that aligns with federal standards and strengthens support for our families and caregivers.



Pulaali'i Nikolao Pula
Governor